

SOAR

REACHING HIGHER IN EDUCATION
2023 EDITION



**Celebrating Another
Record-Breaking Year With
Largest Graduating Class**



**CERRITOS
COLLEGE**



Dr. Jose L. Fierro

President/Superintendent

@DrJfierro_

@cerritoscollegepres

Welcome to the 2023 issue of *SOAR*.

At Cerritos College, we are thrilled to have had an exceptional academic year, with our esteemed programs and talented students receiving numerous national awards and accolades. We are proud to share that we are investing in expanding our programs to provide even more opportunities to our students.

This year, our focus at Cerritos College is centered on a single, important goal - to increase student success through faster completion. To achieve this, we developed a long-term strategy aimed at improving graduation rates and early course success for all our students.

We recognize that our students' time at Cerritos College is the first step in their journey toward success. That's why we are dedicated to creating the best programs in the country to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in their career or transfer to a four-year university.

Through our community partnerships, we are proud to offer programs that provide our students with essential resources such as food, housing, clothing, transportation, and health services. We are making significant investments to create the best learning environment, modern facilities, and updated technology, with the goal of making higher education accessible and affordable to you and your families.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our community, as evidenced by the approval of Measure CC in November 2022. These funds enable us to continue reshaping Cerritos College to meet the evolving needs of our students and community.

We invest in the best employees, programs, and facilities, and we take great pride in our commitment to better prepare our students and be part of our global community. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing our work together.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Shin Liu President	Dr. Sandra Salazar Vice President	Mariana Pacheco Clerk	James Cody Birkey Trustee	Dawn Green Trustee	Zurich Lewis Trustee	Marisa Perez Trustee	Jacki Stone Scott Student Trustee
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**New Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Frank Mixson**



Meet our new Vice President/Assistant Superintendent of Academic Affairs, Dr. Frank Mixson. Dr. Mixson is a familiar face on campus, beginning his career at Cerritos College in August 1995 as a part-time faculty member in the English department. He became a full-time Professor of English in 1998 and was promoted in 2018 to the Instructional Dean of Liberal Arts. Dr. Mixson continues to invest his experience and expertise into growing our award-winning programs and academic support services to boost our students' success in his new role.

**First-Ever Bachelor's Degree
Coming to Cerritos College**



Cerritos College is thrilled to introduce our first-ever bachelor's degree program in dental hygiene coming in the fall of 2025.

You can earn a four-year degree for less than \$11,000. This is a fraction of the cost at universities. By taking nine additional units to the associate program, you can earn a bachelor's degree at Cerritos College. This gives you a higher chance of success as you enter the job market quicker and with less debt.

For over 50 years, Cerritos College's award-winning dental hygiene program has taught students the skills and knowledge needed to succeed. Our program earned a national reputation for providing the best education and training. In fact, our students pass their state exams at a 100 percent passing rate! We aim to ensure our students are always prepared for their future goals and careers. We are excited to continue our work as we look to increase the number of bachelor's degree programs offered on campus.

In L.A. County, dental hygienists can earn **\$50 per hour** and up to **\$105K annually**. (Source: *Dentalpost.net*)



Bachelor's degree at a UC costs **\$57,750** (180 units)



Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene at Cerritos College only costs **\$10,560** (129 units)



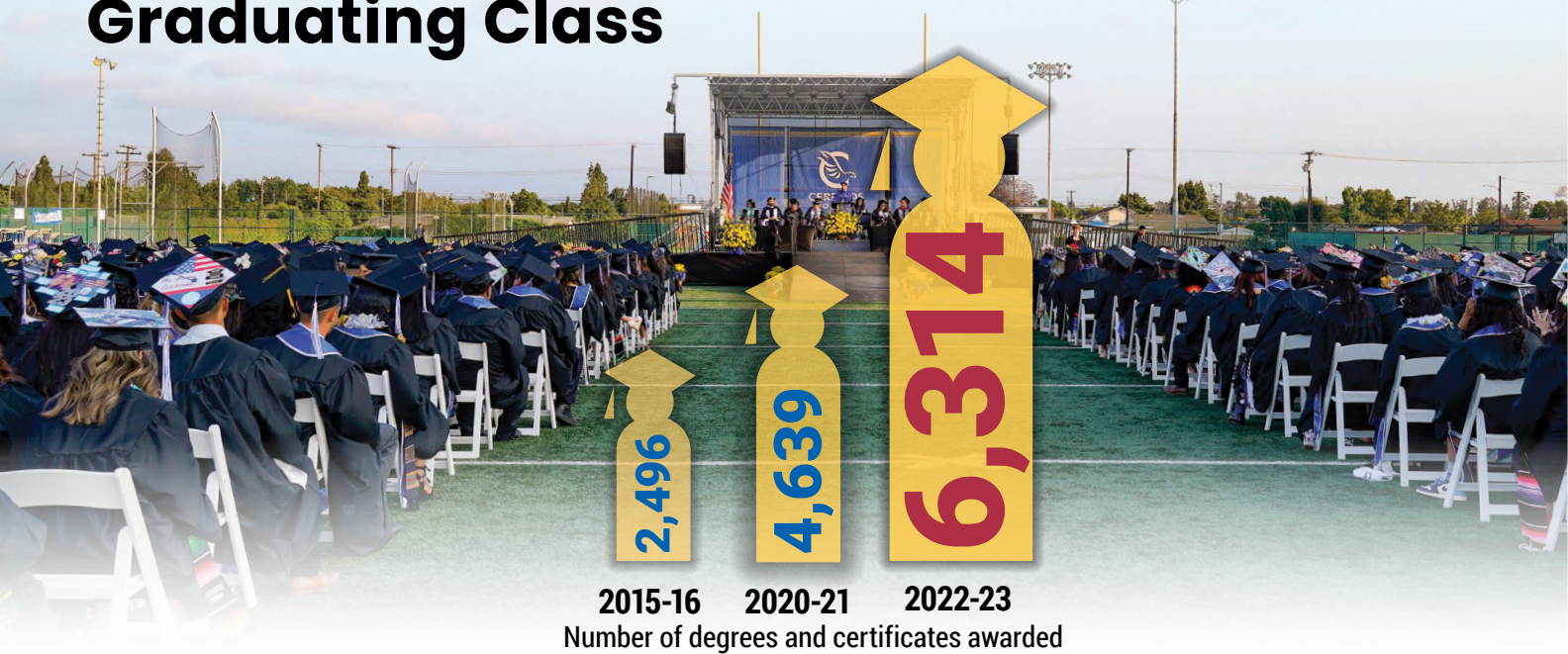
(Source: University of California)



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for more about our Dental Hygiene Program.
www.cerritos.edu/dental-hygiene

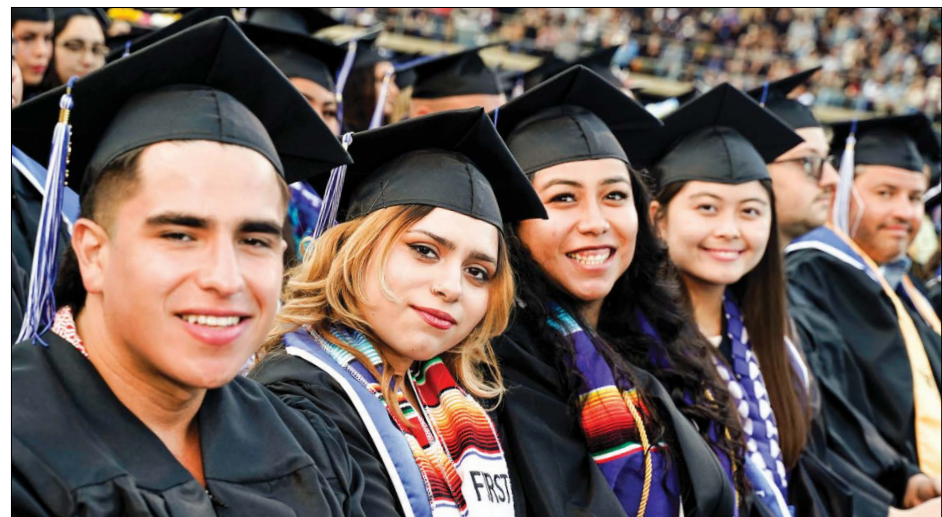
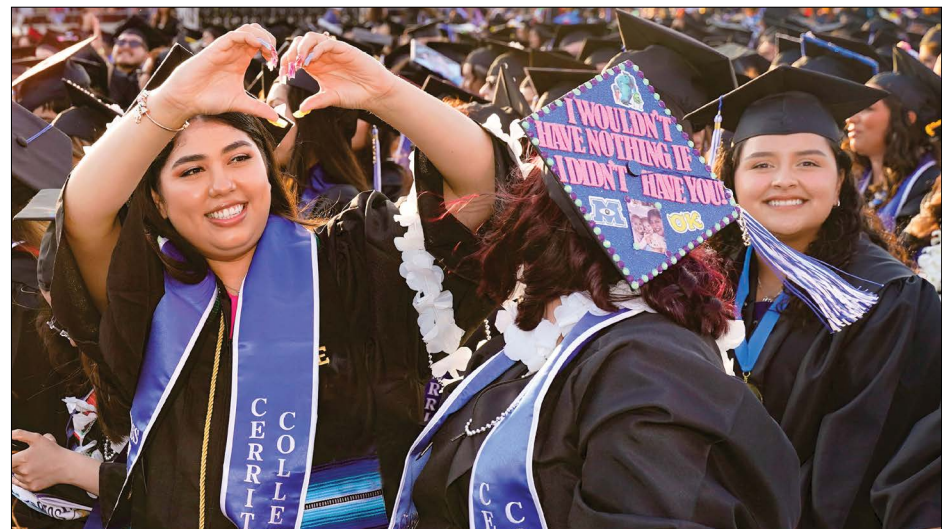
Cerritos College Celebrates Another Record-Breaking Year With Largest Graduating Class



Cerritos College does it again! We shattered our record, having awarded 6,314 degrees and certificates to the Class of 2023 graduates. That's the highest number in campus history.

"We are proud to celebrate another historic year. Many of our graduates began their studies online due to the pandemic. I commend our graduates for their perseverance and commitment to earning a degree or certificate, and our dedicated faculty and staff for their tireless work to ensure student success," said Cerritos College President/ Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro.

Cerritos College is graduating students faster than ever. Over the last five years, we have doubled the number of students completing their studies within two years. On average, our students graduate in less time than students from other local community colleges, giving them an edge when transferring or entering the job market.



Class of 2023 SPOTLIGHTS

Andres Solorzano



Associate Degrees: Global Studies and Social and Behavioral Sciences

Activities: Associated Students of Cerritos College Executive Cabinet, Model United Nations, and Safe Club

Transfer School/Major: Princeton University/ International Relations

Goal: Work for the state department in foreign affairs or diplomacy

Amanda Noda



Background: Retired Marine Corps member

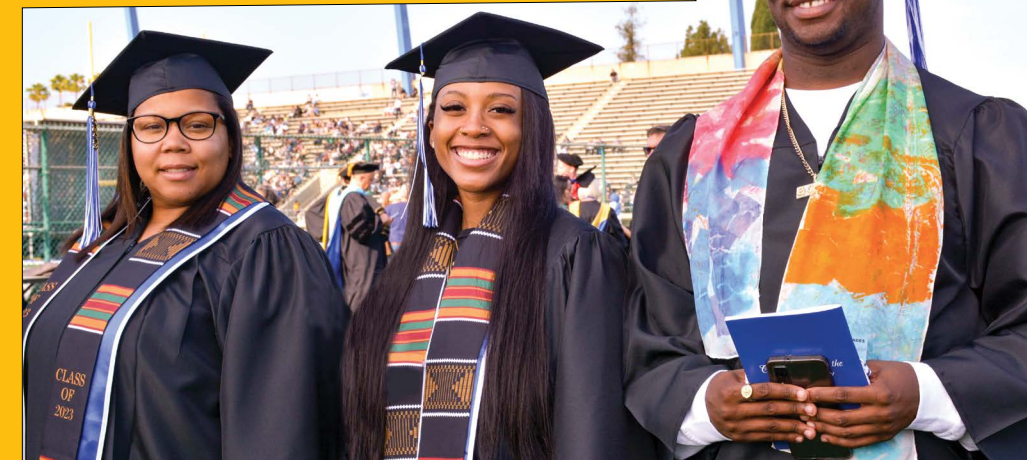
Associate Degrees: Culinary Arts: Professional Baking and Pastry, Culinary Arts Management, and Hospitality Management for Transfer

Special Thanks: Culinary Arts and Veterans Resource Center

Transfer School/Major: Cal Poly Pomona/Hospitality Management

Goal: Open a bakery business

Cerritos College Named Champion for Equitable Access for Black Students



The Campaign for College Opportunity honored Cerritos College as a 2023 Champion for excelling in equitable course placement in Black English enrollment. We were commended for our quick implementation of Assembly Bill 705 by enrolling 100 percent of our Black students directly into transfer-level English coursework during the 2021-22 academic year. The landmark AB 705 eliminated developmental English and math courses from community college placement exams.

Over a decade of research has shown that students' likelihood of earning a degree decreases when they start college in remedial courses. Increasing access to transfer-level coursework boosts student success and helps close racial/ethnic equity gaps.

We serve approximately 1,400 students who identify as Black and African American. Compared to 2017, nearly four times as many students complete transfer-level math and English in their first year. According to our research, students who achieve transfer-level math and English earlier in their educational career are graduating faster.

At a Glance

Focused on student development and academic success, Cerritos College offers nearly 300 degrees and certificate programs in nine divisions. The diverse student body is comprised of more than 20,000 students studying in areas such as business; fine arts and communication; liberal arts; kinesiology; health occupations; humanities and social sciences; science, engineering, and mathematics; and technology.

The District encompasses southeastern Los Angeles County communities: Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate.



11th in the US – Cerritos College was ranked 11th among the nation’s best community colleges for 2022
(College Consensus)



2nd in CA – The Cosmetology Program was ranked second among the 2022 best cosmetology schools in California
(Best-Universities.net)



6th in the US – The Culinary Arts Program was ranked sixth among the best culinary arts colleges in the U.S.
(Universities.com)



2nd in CA – The Pharmacy Technology program was ranked second among the best pharmacy technician schools in California
(Pharmacy Technician Guide)



Best Readers’ Choice – The Cosmetology Program was voted the best cosmetology school for the Press-Telegram Readers’ Choice Award

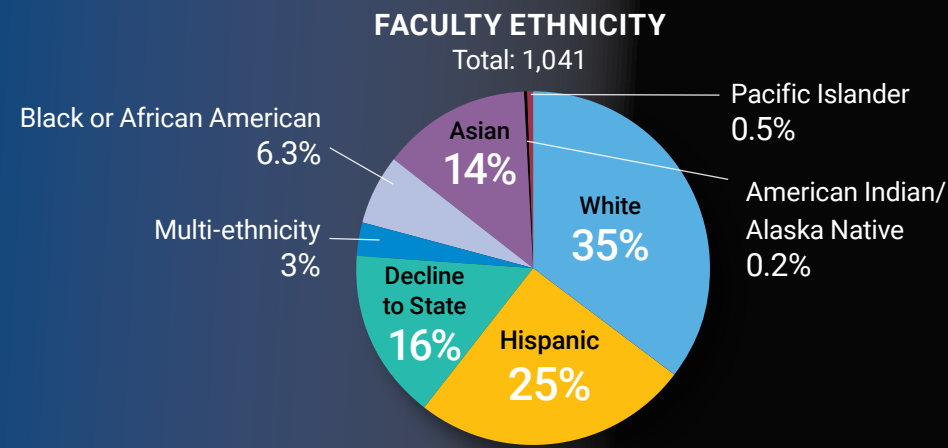
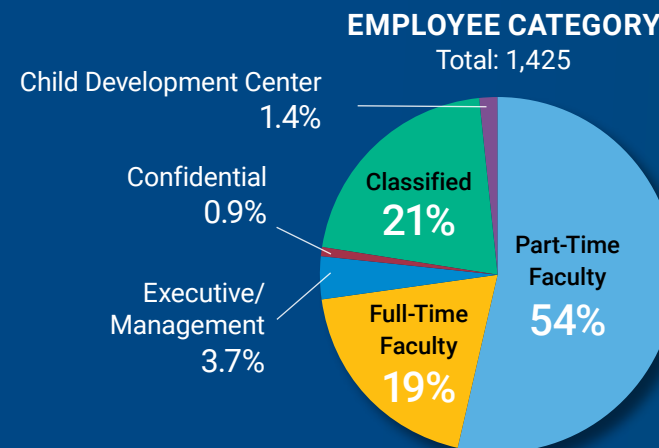


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to apply for admission to Cerritos College.
www.cerritos.edu/apply

Creating Jobs for Community Success

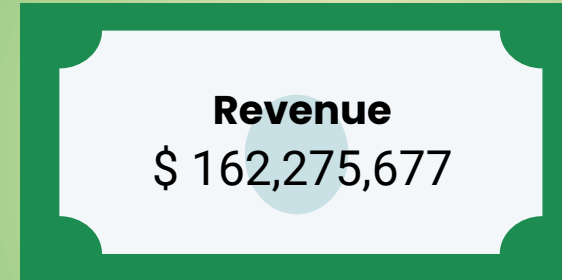
At Cerritos College, we not only train students for the workforce but also create excellent employment opportunities for the community. Cerritos College is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive work environment and investing in top talent through competitive salaries. Join the Cerritos College family!



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for career opportunities at Cerritos College.
www.cerritos.edu/hr

BUDGET INFORMATION



State	Local	Other
74.9%	24.8%	0.3%

(Source: The fiscal year 2023-24 adopted budget)

Expenses

\$161,975,127

Employee Costs	\$ 148,184,487
Operating	\$ 8,187,291
Supplies and Materials	\$ 1,437,950
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,175,829
Interfund Transfers-Out	\$ 2,988,470
Other Student Aid	\$ 1,100

Employee Costs

Total	\$148,184,487
Academic	\$ 74,788,776
Classified	\$ 30,088,740
Benefits	\$ 43,306,971

STUDENT INFORMATION

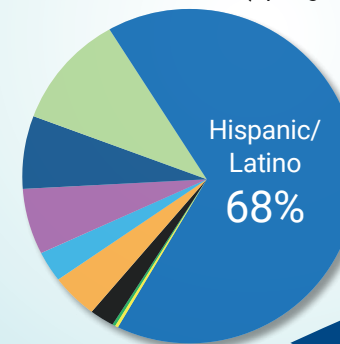
Enrollment: 20,498

(Spring 2023)

Enrollment by Ethnicity

(Spring 2023)

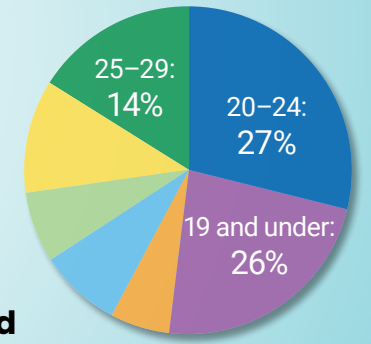
White Non-Hispanic	10.1%
African American	6.5%
Asian	5.8%
Filipino	2.7%
Unknown	4.2%
Multi-Ethnicity	2.2%
Pacific Islander	.3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	.2%



Enrollment by Age

(Spring 2023)

30–34	10%
35–39	6%
40–49	8%
50+	9%



Financial Aid

(2022-23)

Approximately **52%** of our students receive financial aid. We disbursed more than **\$66 million** in financial aid.

(Source: Cerritos College Financial Aid Office)



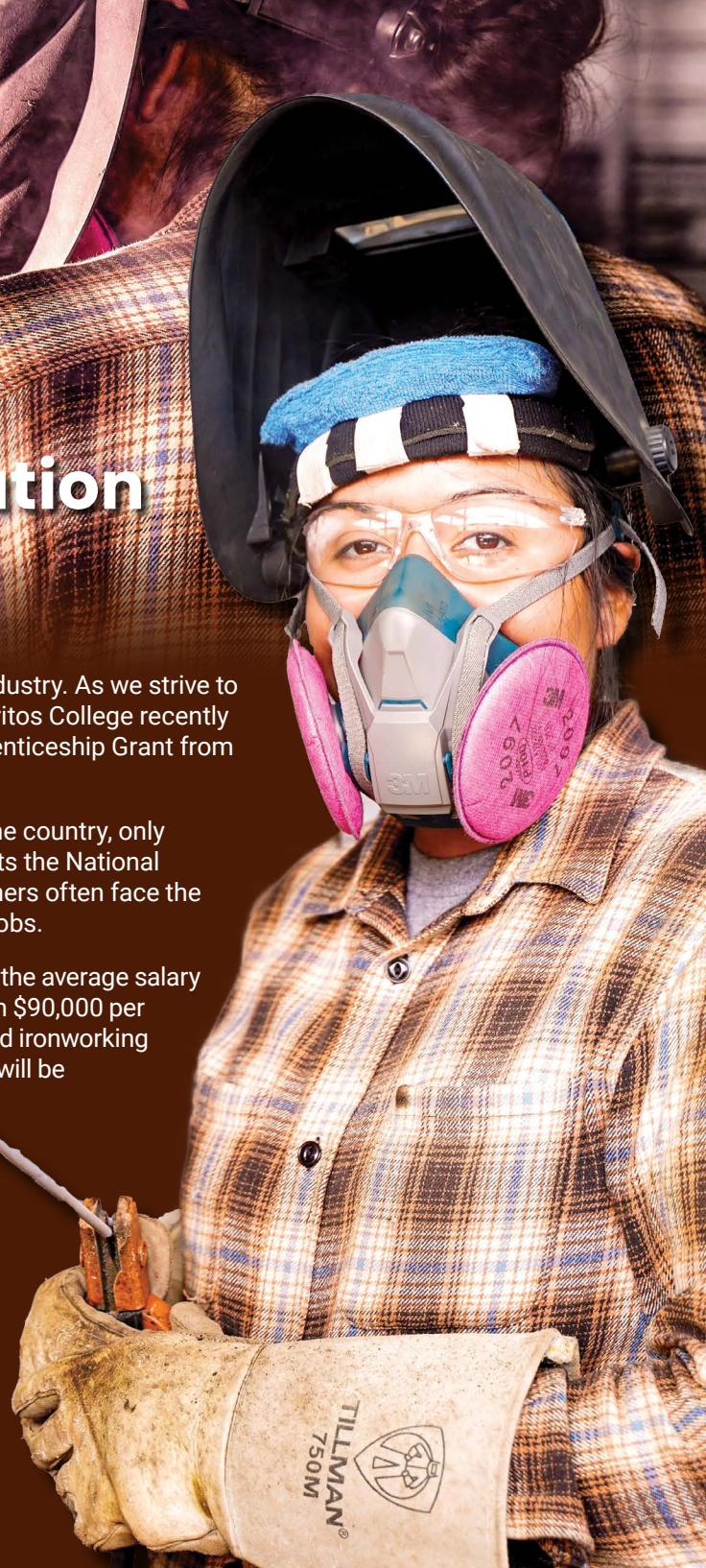
Advocating for Women's Representation in Construction

It is no secret that men historically dominate the construction industry. As we strive to help women break into non-traditional construction careers, Cerritos College recently received a \$900,000 Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship Grant from the State of California Department of Industrial Relations.

Despite 47 percent of women making up the total workforce in the country, only 11 percent of women are employed in construction trades, reports the National Association of Women in Construction. In addition, student mothers often face the challenges of balancing caregiving responsibilities, school, and jobs.

Ranked #10 in highest paying jobs without a degree by U.S. News, the average salary for an ironworker in a steady full-time job in the region is more than \$90,000 per year (source: Union Pay Scales). At the same time, the regional field ironworking job market is growing. Labor market data shows that ironworkers will be in high demand over the next five years in the Los Angeles/Orange County region. This is a significant opportunity to provide equitable career pathways for women while affording women and mothers the ability to earn a meaningful household income.

With our 30-year solid history of offering various apprenticeship programs and this equity grant, we will boost opportunities for women field ironworkers and support women in apprenticeships. The grant funding will be used to expand outreach to women for field ironworker apprenticeship program enrollment and help cover the cost of childcare for eligible participants. For more information about the apprenticeship program, please call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2497.



Affordable Student Housing Coming to Cerritos College Campus



There is a direct correlation between student performance and housing. Students perform better in class when they have a safe and affordable living place, which leads to their success after graduation. However, the issue of student homelessness continues to be a persistent problem. We are thrilled to be among 21 campuses awarded funding from the Governor's Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program. Cerritos College will receive \$68 million to create affordable on-campus student housing. Our Board

of Trustees will also contribute \$12 million. The combined funds will build an \$80-million student housing complex along Studebaker Road featuring approximately 400 affordable beds, communal kitchens, and spaces where tutors and mental health specialists can visit students. The project is part of our ongoing efforts to address the needs of underserved community college students and help them balance the challenges of school and skyrocketing living costs.



"I chose a career in aerospace welding because I enjoy the challenge and precision behind gas tungsten arc welding. It's a very rewarding and challenging career, offering many benefits such as competitive salary, opportunities for advancement, and job security since welders are in high demand. I absolutely love my job!"

– Melissa Figueroa, Welding Instructor

Leadership in Sustainability

Cerritos College strives to be an environmental leader. We are creating a campus environment that fosters sustainability through conscious decision-making strategies.

Solar Panels for Renewable Energy Source

Cerritos College is in the process of installing solar panels to reduce carbon emissions. When completed, solar panels will offset approximately 85% of our energy consumption, saving roughly \$17 million in energy costs over 20 years. Solar panels will be installed as carports in lots 1 and 10. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024.



EV Charging Stations Reduce Gas Emissions

Did you know we offer 12 electric vehicle charging stations for public use on campus? For \$0.36 per kilowatt hour, you can charge your vehicles in our parking lots 2 (currently unavailable due to construction), 4, and 10. Through electric vehicle charging, we have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 11,254 kilograms (about the weight of a school bus) in three years!



Campus Police Deploy E-Bikes for Carbon Footprint Reduction

Three e-bikes joined our Campus Police Department's fleet. These e-bikes are not typical e-bikes seen on the road, but are designed specifically to meet the demand of law enforcement use by traveling up to 40mph. The goals of adding e-bikes are to reduce the use of fossil fuels by limiting patrol vehicle use, increase Campus Police visibility, and provide greater mobility and faster response times throughout campus. Only authorized officers who have completed the tactical police e-bike training course can patrol on e-bikes.



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for more about Green Cerritos. www.cerritos.edu/campus-guide/green-campus.htm

The College Tour

The College Tour Cerritos College Edition Debuts on Amazon Prime



We are excited to be featured on *The College Tour's* ninth season on Amazon Prime. The award-winning TV series shares the story of a college through the authentic lens of current students. To celebrate the episode launch, Cerritos College hosted a blue carpet premiere event in September. Catch the episode to hear from real students about their campus experiences and perspectives on college life and culture. See what makes Cerritos College SOAR above the crowd!

I'm a first-generation student and couldn't have done it without my support system here at Cerritos. Special shout-out to my counselor, Umoja, Falcon's Nest, and Teacher TRAC for preparing me for my teaching career!



BRITTANY MARTIN
Child Development
McComb, MS



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to watch our students featured in *The College Tour*. www.cerritos.edu/collegetour/

Sharing my story and expressing my gratitude for Cerritos College is an experience I will forever cherish. I couldn't have done this alone, and taking on this opportunity showed me that the support network here on campus is second to none.



KOBE HARMON
Computer Science
La Mirada, CA



Falcon Women's Wrestling Wins Inaugural CCCAA State Championship



Dustin Kirk

When Dustin Kirk was brought in to serve as Cerritos College's first-ever women's wrestling head coach, he had five things in mind that he wanted to accomplish: host the first-ever CCCAA dual meet, win their first dual meet, win a tournament, win the CCCAA Team Dual State Championship in the Falcon gym, and win the CCCAA State Championship. In the team's first season, the Falcons accomplished all that, sweeping every award during the season and wrapping things up with a win at the state championships.

In addition, Kirk (pictured left) was voted the state's Coach of the Year, while freshman 148-pound Aine Drury (pictured below) was named the Most Valuable Wrestler at the state championships. Congratulations, Falcons!

For Coach Kirk, former Falcon wrestling two-time All-American and 133-pound state champion, the next goal is to grow the program, and his sights are set on bringing 30 girls in for next season and working toward another championship.



Aine Drury

Falcons finished with 129 team points and outdistanced second-place Mt. San Antonio College, which scored 110.5 team points. We ended with nine All-American wrestlers, four state champions, and eight members in the top three.



Family Events Bring Community Members to Campus

We are committed to engaging with our community. Our first Community Meet and Greet event in December 2022 gathered community members for a photo opportunity with Santa and the campus mascot, Franco Falcon, balloon art, face painting, train rides, and refreshments.

In April 2023, we hosted a free spring community event celebrating Earth Day. Over 400 community members enjoyed carnival games, a shaved ice food truck, giveaways, live performances, and Earth Day-related crafts.

These events are part of our Board of Trustees' ongoing efforts to bring more community members to campus to learn about Cerritos College and what we offer.



Join us for the second annual Community Meet and Greet event!

WHEN: Saturday, December 2, 2023
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE: Falcon Square

WHAT: Free event featuring fun family activities and photos with Santa and Franco Falcon.

Free parking in Lot 10



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for our event calendar.
www.cerritos.edu/calendar

Cerritos College Foundation

The Cerritos College Foundation is dedicated to supporting Cerritos College students and programs. This can only be accomplished by building relationships and through the generosity of partners. The Foundation values its donors and the impact their contributions have on the lives of students.

As the philanthropic vehicle, we encourage you to make an investment in our Cerritos College students to ensure that they succeed and achieve their dreams. The Foundation manages donations, annual gifts, grants, and planned gifts. For information on how to donate, please contact us at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2719 or by emailing foundation@cerritos.edu.



Spring 2023 Scholarship Celebration with donor Gary Hormel awarding the Gary and Steven Hormel Family Endowed Scholarship.

Cerritos College Alumni Are Giving Back

The Cerritos College Foundation invites you to connect with your alma mater today! Every year, Cerritos College graduates thousands of students who become alumni at the turn of a tassel. We are looking for alums who are interested in donating their gift of time in a number of ways to Cerritos College:

- Mentor a student
- Be a guest speaker
- Serve on a professional panel discussion
- Volunteer at exciting college events
- Provide work site visits for students
- Hire our students and fellow alumni
- Start a scholarship

Engage with us and make a difference in the life of a Cerritos College student while networking with fellow alums, students, and faculty.

For more information on how you can get involved, email alumni@cerritos.edu.



Community Advancement and Workforce Development

The Cerritos College Economic Development Center for Corporate Trainings works with companies to provide employee training and professional development. In addition, companies may be eligible to receive state funding to upskill employees. Trainings and workshops are tailored to meet industry needs.

In 2022-23, the Foundation provided more than \$800,000 in support of training programs and economic development opportunities.

Sectors Served:

- Government
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Non-profit
- Retail management
- Logistics and transportation



Cerritos College Foundation Board Retreat, January 2023

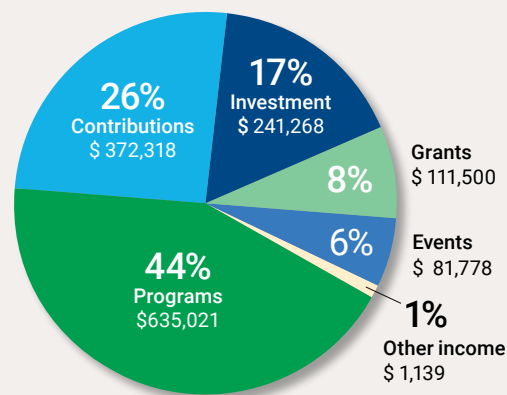
Left to right: Dr. Jose Fierro, Cristal Vergara, Jon Tanklage, Anil Desai, Mazen Nabulsi, Jeanie McHatton, Martha Pelayo, Robert Hughlett, Nazih Yehya, Stephanie Rodriguez, Keisha Wright, Tom Jackson, Marisa Perez, and Jason Barquero. Board members not shown in this picture: Mariana Pacheco, Dr. Jayesh Shah, Parimal Shah, Bill Stephens, and Jesse Urquidi.



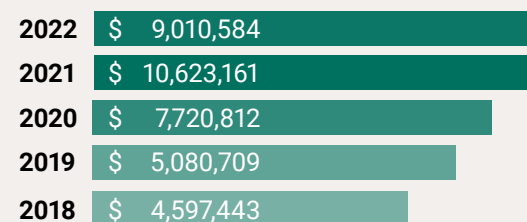
Bristol Farms invests in employee training and development. The Cerritos College Economic Development Center for Corporate Trainings delivers customized courses and workshops.

For more information, email CerritosTrainsU@Cerritos.edu or call (562) 860-2451 x2510 or x2511.

2022 Revenue Sources



5-Year Net Assets



2022-2023 Scholarships



Scholarships awarded
309



Students awarded
221



SCAN ME to make your gift.
www.cerritoscf.org/you-can-give/donate-now/



Cerritos Community College District

11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

(562) 860-2451 | www.cerritos.edu

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Cerritos College

ECRWSS
Residential Customer, Local



Cerritos College Mission

Cerritos College provides its diverse student population with high-quality, comprehensive instructional programs and support services through clear, equity-minded pathways to their educational goals. In doing so, the college develops culturally competent students with the knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them to be productive members of their local and global communities.

ADMINISTRATION



Jose L. Fierro,
D.V.M., Ph.D.
President /
Superintendent



Felipe Lopez
Executive
Vice President
Business Services/
Assistant
Superintendent



**Frank
Mixson, Ph.D.**
Vice President
Academic Affairs/
Assistant
Superintendent



**Mercedes
Gutierrez, Ed.D.**
Vice President
Human Resources/
Assistant
Superintendent



**Robyn
Brammer, Ph.D.**
Vice President
Student Services/
Assistant
Superintendent

Cerritos College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



@cerritoscollege